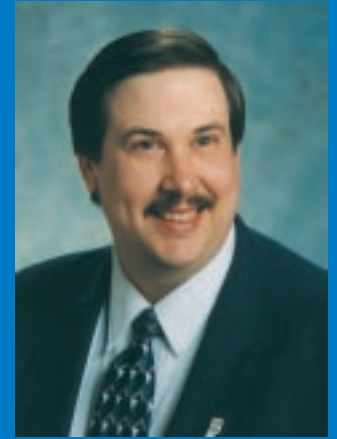


State Representative

Dan Stevenson



Representing the communities of Hammond, Highland and Schererville

How To Reach
Representative

Dan Stevenson

RESIDENCE

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Summer, 2000

Dear Friends,

The One Hundred and Eleventh Indiana General Assembly has had many accomplishments, including more than \$974 million in tax cuts, a plan to distribute the more than \$4 billion Indiana will receive from the national tobacco settlement, and increases in funding for public schools and the CHOICE home health care program.

I have detailed several of those items in this newsletter along with providing a breakdown of the various Build Indiana projects and the additional funding for roads in our district.

This will be my last official newsletter until after the November election. However, I am still available to assist with problems, concerns or questions with state government. Please contact my office at 1-800-382-9842 if you need assistance.

Sincerely,

Building District 11

ROAD FUNDING

**Additional \$200 million
will help build and
repair local roads**

TAX CUTS

\$974 million in tax cuts

BUILD INDIANA FUNDS

**Lottery profits help
communities with
special projects**

*** DETAILS INSIDE ***

An update from Rep. Dan Stevenson

ROAD FUNDING

We approved an additional \$200 million to build and repair local roads in last year's state budget. This funding is in addition to regular funding. Here is the breakdown for our district.

Lake County	\$2,179,842
City of Hammond	\$2,354,812
Town of Highland	\$674,316
Town of Schererville	\$621,669

The amount listed for each city is in addition to the county total

SIGN UP FOR THE FEDERAL "DO-NOT-CALL" LIST

To place your name on the federal "do-not-call" list write to:

Telephone Preference Service, DMA
P.O. Box 9014
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

Federal law prohibits solicitation calls to your home before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. (local time).

If you need further assistance, do not hesitate to contact the attorney general's consumer protection line at 1-800-382-5516.

Tax cuts benefit families



Rep. Stevenson with Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

Homeowners and Renters

Property taxes on a taxpayer's principal place of residence can be deducted on state income taxes up to \$2,500. The renters' [income tax deduction](#) was increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000. The county welfare funds and the county welfare administration funds were eliminated from local property taxes.

Families and children

The [income tax deduction](#) was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for dependent children under age 19 and full-time students under age 24. You may reduce your Indiana adjusted gross income for each qualifying dependent.

A new \$100,000 deduction has been provided for each "Class A" beneficiary, which includes a child, parent, grandchild or grandparent to reduce the [inheritance tax](#).

Senior Citizens

The [income tax deduction](#) for seniors with adjusted gross income less than \$40,000 per year was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Each qualified taxpayer may take this deduction — meaning married senior couples may now deduct \$3,000 from their adjusted gross income.

Many seniors also received an increase in the [property tax deduction](#) from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The basic eligibility qualifications have been expanded to include senior citizens with a maximum adjusted gross income of \$25,000 and who own property with a maximum assessed valuation of less than \$23,000. However, there are some limitations to the deduction. (1) Everyone who lives on the property must be 65 or older. The deduction is reduced if everyone is not 65. (2) Individuals who share ownership must reside on the property. However, living in a nursing home or hospital will not prevent a person from receiving this deduction. (3) You may not receive any other deductions other than the Mortgage Deduction and the Homestead Deduction.

The legislature also established a new state income tax deduction for the amount of [long-term health care](#) insurance premiums on qualified policies.

Working men and women

Additional assistance for those who are injured on the job

Nearly 90 percent of Indiana workers who receive a disabling injury in a workplace accident will see their compensation increase close to 50 percent.

Although these increases do not put Indiana up to standards with our neighboring states, they do represent a significant step in the right direction. Weekly disability payments for injured workers will also increase.

Unemployment compensation

Indiana workers who lose their jobs will see unemployment compensation increase by 33 percent over the next three years. The maximum benefit will increase from \$252 to \$336 by July 2002.

Additionally, there will be an \$80 million premium tax cut to all Indiana employers on their Unemployment Insurance premiums. This is a win-win situation for both unemployed workers and Indiana businesses.

Stevenson legislation benefits Northwest Indiana

High Speed Rails -- New legislation established an interstate passenger rail compact between Midwest states and a commission that would officiate the Compact. I was recently appointed by Speaker Gregg as the House appointee to the Compact.

The railway would provide many new jobs in the Midwest. It is estimated that 15,000 temporary and 2,000 permanent jobs would be created in the Midwest. It is also estimated that it would stimulate \$9.1 billion in new economic activity.

The railway would provide quick links to major cities throughout the Midwest, including Cleveland, Chicago, and St. Louis. In addition, it would help to bring people to Indiana, which would greatly benefit the state's tourism industry.

Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy -- The closing of the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy has been prevented. This legislation will ensure that the good work being done by the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in training our police officers will not end. Graduates of the Academy are better prepared to work in Northwest Indiana. The region specific training makes all of the difference.

BUILD INDIANA PROJECTS DISTRICT 11

Since 1989, \$229.9 million has been distributed statewide from lottery profits for Build Indiana Projects. The organizations and projects listed below received appropriations in the last biennial budget.

Hammond Projects

Martin Luther King Bandshell -- \$40,000
Challenger Space Learning Center -- \$210,000
Ophelia Steen Community Center -- \$40,000
Woodland Child Development Center -- \$15,000
Hammond YMCA -- \$65,000
Northwest Family Services -- \$50,000
Cline Avenue Sound Barriers -- \$400,000

Highland Projects

Downtown Redevelopment -- \$100,000
Fire Department (Hurst Tool Set) -- \$37,000
Fire Department (Radio Equipment) -- \$40,000
Highland Girls Youth Basketball -- \$1,000
Police Department (Storage Garage) -- \$40,000

Schererville Projects

Flood Control (Hartsdale Pond) -- \$125,000
Hoosier Boys' Town -- \$200,000
Fire Station Construction/Addition -- \$120,000
Joliet Street Improvements -- \$30,000

Lake County Projects

Lake County Children's Museum -- \$1,000,000
Northern Indiana Arts Association -- \$38,600
Civil Rights Hall of Fame -- \$25,000

Hoosier Healthwise

Hoosier Healthwise offers health care to children, pregnant women and low-income working families. Each child has a personal doctor -- known as a Primary Medical Provider or PMP. Each child's doctor works with the parent to plan for all of the health care needs of the child, including routine check-ups, immunizations, screenings, diagnoses and treatment. Hoosier Healthwise also offers access to dental care.

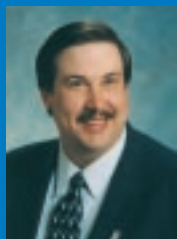
Families making up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (equal to about \$34,000 for a family of four) may qualify for Hoosier Healthwise. To find out if you qualify, contact Hoosier Healthwise at 1-800-889-9949.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was created as part of the Federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Congress created CHIP as a way to encourage states to provide health insurance to uninsured children. In 1998, Indiana enacted legislation creating the Hoosier Healthwise program for children. More than 115,000 children have been added to the program since 1998. This sizable addition resulted in Indiana having the largest Medicaid enrollment increase of any state.

Hoosier Healthwise Helpline 1-800-889-9949.

How to apply

1. Have an application mailed to you by calling 1-800-889-9949.
2. Fill out and sign the application.
3. Turn in the application by mailing it, taking it to an enrollment center or taking it to your local office of the Division of Family and Children.
4. Once your application is reviewed, you will receive a packet of information on the program and be assigned a Benefit Advocate.



Rep. Dan Stevenson

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Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

Call the Statehouse toll-free

1-800-382-9842

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